IN THE CLAIMS

The pending claims are as follows:

1-6. (Cancelled).

7. (Previously Presented) A remote control unit for controlling a number of devices, the remote control unit comprising:

a receiver for acquiring identification data from a particular device at which the remote control unit is pointed;

a processor for processing the acquired identification data to determine command protocols associated with the particular device; and

a formatter for formatting control commands for the particular device according to the command protocols associated with the particular device,

wherein the receiver acquires identification data from the particular device at which the remote control unit is pointed by capturing at least one image in the direction in which the remote control unit is pointed, the at least one captured image including the particular device.

8. (Previously Presented) The remote control unit as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the receiver comprises a camera for capturing images in the direction in which the remote control unit is pointed.

9. (Previously Presented) The remote control unit as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the processor processes the captured image to identify the particular device at which the remote control unit is pointed.

10. (Previously Presented) The remote control unit as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the processor identifies the particular device in the captured image using image recognition processing.

11. (Previously Presented) The remote control unit as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the remote control unit comprises a database containing representations of images of the number of devices and their associated command protocols, the processor determining a representation of an image in the database that matches the particular device in the captured image, and the formatter using the command protocols associated with the representation of the image in the database to format input control commands.

12. (Previously Presented) The remote control unit as in Claim 7, wherein the receiver acquires identification data from the particular device at which the remote control unit is pointed after the user inputs an acquisition command in the remote, wherein, after the processor processes the identification data acquired to determine command protocols associated with the particular device, the formatter formats control commands for the particular device input to the remote by the user according to the command protocols

associated with the particular device until the user inputs another acquisition command.

13. (Previously Presented) The remote control unit as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the remote control unit further comprises a display for displaying information, and the receiver acquires identification data from two or more particular devices at which the remote control unit is pointed, the processor processing the identification data and displaying on the display the identity of the two or more particular devices to the user, the remote control unit further comprising an input for receiving a user selection input selecting one of the two or more particular devices identified, the processor determining command protocols associated with the selected device, and the formatter formatting control commands for the selected particular device input to the remote by the user according to the command protocols associated with the selected particular device.

14-16. (Cancelled).

17. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling one particular device selected from among a number of devices based upon a selection direction, the method comprising the steps of:

acquiring identification data from the particular device;

determining command protocols associated with the particular device using the identification data; and

formatting control commands for the particular device according to the determined command protocols for the particular device,

wherein the step of acquiring identification data from the particular device comprises capturing one or more images of the particular device.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the step of determining command protocols associated with the particular device using the identification data comprises using the image to find a matching image representation in a compilation of image representations for the number of devices and their associated command protocols and selecting the command protocols associated in the compilation with the image representation that matches the image of the particular device.